

DECK BOARD CHART

Fourteen common deck sizes with the board count, the linear feet and the joist count for each. The same deck in 12, 16 and 20 foot stock, and in three board widths.

A deck board count is not the area divided by the board. It is the number of rows across the width, each row being one board length long, and the gap between boards is part of that arithmetic. A quarter inch gap on a 16 foot wide deck takes a whole board out of the count, so leaving it out of the arithmetic buys one board too many and plans a last row that will not land where you drew it.

The first number in each deck size is the direction the boards run, which is normally parallel to the house. Turn the boards and the count changes, so the second and third tables are worth reading before the lumber gets ordered.

Boards, linear feet and joists at common deck sizes

Deck size	Area (sq ft)	Rows of boards	Linear feet	16 ft boards	Joists at 16 in oc
10 x 8 ft	80	17	170	11	9
12 x 8 ft	96	17	204	13	10
12 x 10 ft	120	21	252	16	10
12 x 12 ft	144	26	312	20	10
14 x 12 ft	168	26	364	23	12
16 x 10 ft	160	21	336	21	13
16 x 12 ft	192	26	416	26	13
16 x 14 ft	224	30	480	30	13
16 x 16 ft	256	34	544	34	13
20 x 12 ft	240	26	520	33	16
20 x 16 ft	320	34	680	43	16
20 x 20 ft	400	42	840	53	16
24 x 16 ft	384	34	816	51	19
24 x 20 ft	480	42	1,008	63	19

Boards 5.5 inches wide, which is a 5/4 x 6 or a 2 x 6, with a quarter inch gap. Joists 16 inches on center, counted along the length with one at each end. Nothing here includes waste, a picture frame border, stairs or a rim joist.

Board count by the stock length you buy

Deck size	12 ft boards	16 ft boards	20 ft boards
10 x 8 ft	15	11	9
12 x 8 ft	17	13	11
12 x 10 ft	21	16	13

Deck size	12 ft boards	16 ft boards	20 ft boards
12 x 12 ft	26	20	16
14 x 12 ft	31	23	19
16 x 10 ft	28	21	17
16 x 12 ft	35	26	21
16 x 14 ft	40	30	24
16 x 16 ft	46	34	28
20 x 12 ft	44	33	26
20 x 16 ft	57	43	34
20 x 20 ft	70	53	42
24 x 16 ft	68	51	41
24 x 20 ft	84	63	51

Boards 5.5 inches wide with a quarter inch gap. Where the stock length does not divide into the deck length the count rises, because the offcut from one row will not usually reach across a second.

Boards needed at three board widths

Deck size	3.5 in face	5.5 in face	7.25 in face
10 x 8 ft	17	11	9
12 x 8 ft	20	13	10
12 x 10 ft	24	16	12
12 x 12 ft	30	20	15
14 x 12 ft	35	23	18
16 x 10 ft	32	21	16
16 x 12 ft	39	26	20
16 x 14 ft	45	30	23
16 x 16 ft	52	34	26
20 x 12 ft	49	33	25
20 x 16 ft	65	43	33
20 x 20 ft	80	53	40
24 x 16 ft	78	51	39
24 x 20 ft	96	63	48

Face width, not nominal size. A 2 x 4 is 3.5 inches, a 5/4 x 6 and a 2 x 6 are both 5.5, a 2 x 8 is 7.25. Counted at 16 foot stock with a quarter inch gap.

Every figure on this sheet was produced by the same calculator that runs at contractorhandbook.com, free and with no signup.

These are estimating figures for ordering and pricing, not engineering. Nothing here sizes a structural member, checks a load, or replaces local code, a permit, or a manufacturer's installation instructions. Where a rule of thumb is doing the work it is written into the notes under each table rather than hidden.